

has written an appreciative preface to the work, which he regards as an elegant exposition of his neocriticist philosophy. The idea of the dialogue is to introduce into the discussions of the ancient philosophers some of the most interesting problems that have agitated the modern world; e. g., the questions of empiricism and positivism, as contrasted with the idealistic *à priori* psychology, and the conflicts of science and religion. The scene is laid in the garden of the Academy, the time is in the old age of Plato, while the interlocutors are thinkers of widely divergent views who have gathered about the master to celebrate some Socratic anniversary. (Paris: Félix Alcan. 1901. Pages, xxii, 215. Price, 4 francs.)

M. F. Paulhan has added to his successful series of psychological books an interesting study of the *Psychology of Invention*. It is a fascinating topic, and M. Paulhan has treated it in a very interesting manner. He has endeavored to study the ways in which inventions are made and developed, taking his examples from literature, philosophy, art, and industry. He has not in our opinion sufficiently considered scientific inventions, the chief stress being laid upon artistic and belletristic creation. The volume concludes with general considerations on the function and rôle of invention in society and the world at large, its relations with life, instinct and chance, together with its general philosophical scope and significance. (Paris: Félix Alcan. 1901. Pages, 184. Price, 2 francs, 50.)

Approximations to Truth is the title of a pleasing "study in experimental or positive philosophy," by Hervé Blondel, a professed and enthusiastic disciple of Comte and an admirer also of the system of M. de Roberty. He has not been so presumptuous as to offer an elaborate philosophical system to his readers, but has merely meant to give a summary or an analysis of the present state of industry, ethics, and art, to point out the effects of the action of present scientific and experimental methods on our knowledge, sentiments, and modes of conduct, seeking to indicate the rigorous logical unity which inheres as well in the humblest conceptions of practice as in the sublimest notions of our intellectual and social life. (Paris: Félix Alcan. 1900. Pages, xii, 239. Price, 2 francs, 50.)

A synopsis of the educational theories and practice of Herbart has been given by M. Marcel Mauxion, Professor of Philosophy in the University of Poitiers. It is intended to accompany the recent translation into French by M. Pinloche of the principal pedagogic works of the Göttingen philosopher, but has a readable value entirely independent of that work. (*L'Éducation par l'instruction et les théories pédagogiques de Herbart*. Paris: Félix Alcan. 1901. Pages, iv, 187. Price, 2 francs, 50.) The esthetical theories of another German philosopher, Lotze, have also been concisely and correctly summarised in a little book by M. Amédée Matagrín, which will be welcomed all the more by students as the esthetics of Lotze are the least known of his doctrines. (*Essai sur l'esthétique de Lotze*. Paris: Félix Alcan. 1901. Pages, 163. Price, 2 francs.) μ.

BOOKS ON AMERICAN HISTORY.

At the present crisis of our political history, where the dominant note is that of territorial and commercial expansion, the work of Mr. Albert Bushnell Hart, Professor of History in Harvard University, on *The Foundations of American Foreign Policy*, will be of more than usual interest and value. There is so much misconception about the present status of our nation in the councils of the world, and so much heedlessness of precedent and experience, that Prof. Hart believes there is an opportunity "to show that our forefathers and grandfathers had

problems similar to our own ; and to explain how they thought that they had solved those problems." Not claiming to write a history of American diplomacy, and not recording many controversies of import nor discussing many essential principles of international politics, the author has sought to recount the development of certain characteristic phases of American foreign relations, and of the methods of American diplomacy in dealing with them. An excellent working bibliography of American diplomacy, diplomatic history, and general histories, as well as of treatises, and monographs on international law, of treaties, official indexes, official collections, cases in the Federal courts, official correspondence, foreign correspondence, manuscripts etc. has been added. (New York : Macmillan. 1901. Pp., xi, 307. \$1.50.)

Mention has before been made in *The Open Court* of the admirable collection of readings entitled *American History Told by Contemporaries*, which is now completed with the issuance of the fourth volume, *The Welding of the Nation, 1845-1900*. The ground covered by the present book begins with the Mexican War and the consequent renewal of the Slavery contest, and then leads through the exciting "Fifties." The Civil War is also treated in detail ; its causes, conditions, and progress being discussed by the participants, both civil and military, with directness and cogency. It must be remembered that the contents of these volumes are without exception the records of contemporaries, taken from such sources as the Debates of Congress, the House and Senate Reports, executive documents, and the records of the Union and Confederate armies, presidential messages, the speeches and essays of politicians, publicists, and military experts, private journals and diaries, newspapers, works of poets, etc., etc. The period of Reconstruction is also illustrated here, together with that since 1875, which includes the recent history of our political affairs, commerce, finances and currency, foreign relations, the Spanish War, questions of colonisation, and the pressing social problems. Volume IV. contains an excellent index of the entire work, and though containing but 732 pages costs but two dollars. The titles of the previous volumes, all of which have been compiled by Prof. Hart of Harvard, are : *Era of Colonisation, 1492-1689*; *Building of the Republic, 1689-1783*; and *National Expansion, 1783-1845*. (New York : The Macmillan Co. Price, \$2.00 each.)

The political, industrial, social, and intellectual history of the various states of the Union are occupying now a goodly portion of the attention of special workers in political science, and several of these subjects have already been taken as themes for dissertations for the degree of doctor of philosophy, notably in Columbia University, New York. The most recent attempt of this character is that entitled : *Maryland as a Proprietary Province*, by Newton D. Mereness, who is of the opinion that "In no other place upon this American continent is there to be found so good an example of a people who, after a struggle of nearly a century and a half, made the transition from a monarchical government to a 'government of the people, for the people, and by the people' as in Maryland; and the attempt has been made in this book to enable the reader to enter into the experience of that people engaged in that struggle." Our colonial, and in fact our entire national history, of which the sources are of great extent and difficulty, are rapidly being made accessible to inquirers by such books. (New York : The Macmillan Co. 1901. Pages, xx, 530. Price, \$3.00.)

HAECKEL'S WORK ON THE ARTISTIC FORMS OF NATURE.

Ernst Haeckel is not only one of the most celebrated naturalists of the world, known for his championship of Darwinism in its earliest days in Germany and for